



REMARKS

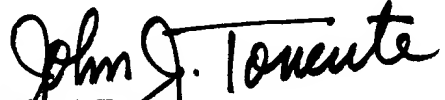
Applicant encloses herewith certified translations of applicant's priority documents, Japanese Patent Application Nos. 11-325559, filed November 16, 1999, and 2000-323980, filed October 24, 2000. This completes applicant's response filed on July 11, 2006 and perfects applicant's reliance on such dates for the effective filing date of the subject application. Applicant's effective filing date thus antedates the effective date (December 29, 2000) of the Cornuejols, et al. patent as a reference under 35 USC § 102(e). The latter reference is thus removed as a citable reference, and, as a result, Examiner's rejections based thereon have been overcome.

In view of the above, it is submitted that applicant's claims are patentable and the subject application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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